

From the Chairman  
The Rt Hon Lord Patten of Barnes CH

John Whittingdale OBE MP  
Chairman  
Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee  
House of Commons  
7 Millbank  
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In view of the widespread public interest in the matter, I am writing to explain the terms that have been agreed for George Entwistle's departure.

On the afternoon of Saturday 10 November, George Entwistle met with the BBC Trust to discuss recent developments linked to the *Newsnight* report of 2 November. The Trustees expressed serious concerns about the way in which this issue was being handled. Later in the day George approached me to ask if suitable terms could be agreed for his resignation.

Under the terms of George's contract the notice period for resignation is 6 months. The notice period for termination by the BBC Trust is 12 months. Both with the right for the Trust to make payments in lieu of notice.

On Saturday evening we undertook discussions with George and his advisers. Those discussions led to a negotiated settlement of the terms for George's resignation.

In agreeing to 12 months' notice rather than 6, we had in mind the following points. In the absence of George's honourable offer to resign, I would have had to speak to the Trustees about the option of termination by us (which, fortunately, was not necessary). In these circumstances, George would have been entitled to 12 months' notice. In circumstances where we needed to conclude matters quickly and required George's ongoing co-operation in a number of very difficult and sensitive matters, including the Inquiries into issues associated with Savile, I concluded that a consensual resignation on these terms was clearly the better route.

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I consulted my colleagues on the Trust's Remuneration Committee and took legal advice. Our conclusion was that a settlement on these terms was justified and necessary. The alternative was long drawn-out discussions and continuing uncertainty at a time when the BBC needs all of its focus to be on resolving fundamental issues of trust in BBC journalism.

I am putting this letter in the public domain.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Yours ever, Chris', with a large, stylized initial 'C'.

Lord Patten of Barnes CH  
Chairman